



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

August 2, 1999

H.R. 940

Lackawanna Valley National Heritage Area Act of 1999

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on July 21, 1999

H.R. 940 would establish the Lackawanna Valley National Heritage Area and (pending execution of an agreement with a local authority) the Schuylkill River National Heritage Area in Pennsylvania. The bill would direct the National Park Service (NPS) to execute agreements with two local associations that would serve as management entities for the new areas. Those two entities would develop management plans for the heritage areas, which would include an inventory of resources and recommendations for financing, managing, and protecting each area and its resources. The NPS would provide technical and financial assistance to the management entities and approve or disapprove the management plans. The NPS's authority for assisting the management entities would expire after September 30, 2012. Finally, the bill would authorize the appropriation of \$1 million annually for each heritage area, but would cap the total authorization for each area at \$10 million.

Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that the NPS would provide each of the two heritage areas with \$1 million for each of fiscal years 2000 through 2009, for a total cost of \$20 million. (That total could be spread over a period of up to 13 years.) Such amounts would be used to cover a portion of the costs of establishing, operating, and interpreting the two heritage areas.

Implementing H.R. 940 would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. The bill contains no private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA). H.R. 940 would impose new intergovernmental mandates on the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority, a public entity. The bill would require the authority to develop a management plan for the Lackawanna Valley National Heritage Area and to undertake certain activities to assist local governments and other organizations. These requirements would be intergovernmental mandates as defined in UMRA. Based on information provided by the authority, however, CBO estimates that the costs imposed by these mandates would be far below the threshold established by that act (\$50 million in 1996, adjusted annually for inflation). Further, the

bill would authorize appropriations to cover up to 50 percent of total spending for these activities. H.R. 940 would impose no costs on other state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contacts are Deborah Reis (for federal costs), and Marjorie Miller (for the state and local impact). This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.